Message from the Chair
Dr. Peter Selwyn

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Friends,

I hope you are as impressed as I am with the choked-full content of this month’s newsletter! Ranging from the spirited group showing in the Tour de Bronx to the strong and multi-faceted presence at the regional STFM meeting, NAPCRG, and the AAMC, our department has been active on many fronts. As indicated in the reports from the Undergraduate Education and Research Divisions, there have been exciting accomplishments in these areas as well. I want to acknowledge all of the hard work and sustained commitment that is represented here, and I hope you are all as collectively proud of it as I am. So please take a moment to stop what you are busy with, read through these pages, and appreciate what you are all part of. Please also remember to continue to send in new and relevant news so that we can continue to take stock, recognize, and disseminate information about the work that you are doing in these monthly newsletters.

In closing, let me give thanks to all of you and wish everyone a wonderful, if premature, Thanksgiving...

Tour De Bronx, October 22, 2006

A contingent of DFSM faculty and residents with family and friends rode in the 2006 Tour de Bronx on October 22. The intrepid cyclists included: Paul Meissner, Peter Sherman, Jennifer Ringstad, Chris Semergieff, Peter Selwyn, Bruce Soloway, Carolyn Chu, James Fausto, Cathryn DeGood, Charlie Schwartz, Darwin Deen, and Daniel Gillmore. The group creatively rode the 40-mile course that included gathering at the Bronx Botanical Gardens, joining a peloton of bicyclists riding down the middle of the Grand Concourse, a brief speech and sendoff by politicians at the Bronx Courthouse, riding through a variety of Bronx neighborhoods, cemeteries, waterfront parks, SUNY Maritime College, to City Island and Orchard Beach, and back up to MMC and Riverdale. Interested riders – serious or otherwise – should contact Paul Meissner pmeissne@montefiore.org to join future exploratory rides which might include gastronomic and other destinations of interest, as well as prepare for next year’s Tour de Bronx!

Divisional highlights and more

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION DIVISION

By Dr. Darwin Deen

All of us have something to be very proud of. According to the Office of Educational Resources at the medical school (Penny Grossman and her staff who are responsible for student evaluations), the Family Medicine Clerkship Evaluations are at an all-time high. Results are published semi-annually so these data reflect student responses from December 2005 through May 2006. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being highest) we have achieved our best evaluations to date for Organization, Teaching, and Feedback, with an overall rating of 4.68. This compares to 4.42 for all clerkships over this same period. So congratulations to all of you who precept the medical students, you are obviously doing a great job and your efforts are being appreciated! Our weakest score however, continues to be in the Feedback category (4.22). Please remember to give students feedback early and often. Helping them to get their

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presentations and chart notes organized and concise and reminding them of important areas they may have overlooked in the history are critical to their long-term success.

If your student has done a great job, being specific about the things you notice (well-organized, comprehensive, remembered to ask about risk factors, etc.) has more impact than just telling them they have done well. Asking them in advance if there are specific goals they would like to work on (e.g. learning how to appropriately examine patients presenting with low back pain) and checking in with them once a week or so (“Did you get what you wanted out of your experience this week?”) will also go a long way toward helping them have a learner-centered experience. The mid-point evaluation tool is also an opportunity to provide formative feedback in a formalized manner. Drs. Deen, Tattelman, Dempster, and Santos continue to make the rounds of the clinical sites each month to do observed clinical encounters (OCEs) with students to ensure that they get feedback on their performance.

Any opportunity that you get to observe any portion of the interview or physical exam will contribute to that effort. For those who would like more information on how to provide brief student-centered feedback, Alice Fornari is available for faculty development consultations. Keep up the great work.

The following quote from an MD/PhD student exemplifies the student perception of the value of working with us:

“T’d like to tell you how much I appreciate this rotation-given that it is optional for us MD/PhD students. I work at an MMG site with a group of very dedicated doctors who are also great teachers. We see lots and lots of patients every day. My project is at IS 142 and is also going very well. The kids are engaged and learning. Hopefully, it will contribute to their future development as well.”

Our own Gladys Valdivieso also helped to orient AECOM’s new Dean Allen Spiegel to his new surroundings by inviting him on one of the Bronx tours that all of our clerkship students enjoy. Word is he was impressed with our borough and Gladys’ knowledge of its history.

Research Division
By Dr. Arthur Blank

The past few months have been a busy, and productive, time for the research division. Faculty have either helped assist in NIH and foundation grant submissions, worked on submitting their own grant applications, prepared articles for conference presentations or publication, and received successful notices of grant awards. Clyde Schechter has been working hard as the methodologist/statistician on a large NIA grant, and his efforts paid off as the Principal Investigator (Dr. Nir Barzilai) for that grant just received a notice of grant award (NOGA). Arthur Blank helped write the evaluation section for Paul Meissner’s recently awarded HRSA grant on Oral Health among HIV/AIDS patients, and also wrote the evaluation section for a successful grant to the New York State Department of Health’s Center of Excellence in Diabetes. Arthur also worked with Sean O’Mahony, MD, on a proposal for a pilot study to the American Cancer Society on mental health symptoms and palliative care. Diane Mckee is preparing for a new NIH submission, and Diane, Alison Karasz, Maria Baquero, Matt Anderson, and Arthur Blank all presented posters or papers at the National Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) meeting in Tucson, Arizona. More grants, papers, presentations are underway.

Perhaps the most institutionally visible effort of the research division was the NYC RING Annual Convocation this past September. Under Diane Mckee’s leadership, NYC RING hosted a successful convocation at Jacobi Medical Center that showcased the wide variety of practice-based research and quality improvement activities through poster presentations (20-30 are in the works)! In addition, a keynote address was delivered by Jon Tobin, PhD, Director of Clinical Director’s Network. The event provided an opportunity for clinicians and researchers to exchange ideas with each other.
This month’s

GRANTS

Congratulations! To Dr. Elizabeth Lee on the receipt of her K07 award, titled Reducing Health Inequalities Through Medical Education (RHIME). The overall goal is to influence attitudes, increase knowledge and enhance skills for medical students, residents and faculty to improve their self-awareness, cross-cultural communication and cultural competency and to reduce and eliminate ethnic and racial disparities in their clinical practices, both as physicians and health advocates.

PRESENTATIONS


North American Primary Care Research Group
Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ, October 15-18, 2006


Blank A, Farella A, Nugent A, Sharp V. Probing the Boundaries of Primary Care Interventions: Analyzing the Effectiveness of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in HIV/AIDS Patients.


McKee D, O’Sullivan L, Deen D, Maher S, Blank A. Family Diet, Exercise Behaviors, and Readiness to Change in an Urban Primary Care Population.

Rubin S, Godfrey E. Integration of Early Abortion Services Into Primary Care: Acceptability Survey of Female Patients.

Sohler N, Devia C, McKee D. Impact of free medication samples in primary care practices: a qualitative study.

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Northeast Regional Meeting
Boston, MA, October 26-29, 2006

Becker K. An OSCE for Assessment of Information Mastery Skills.

Montefiore Excellence

Standards of Montefiore Excellence

Respect

Effective Communication

Sensitivity

Professionalism

Exceeding Expectations

Courtesy

Teamwork

Quote of the month

To insure good health: eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately, cultivate cheerfulness, and maintain an interest in life

William Londen

Editors at large

Peter Selwyn, MD, MPH
Becky Williams, MD, MHPE
Mark Polisar, MD
Tami Rivera
The New York Academy of Medicine
Press Release

The Academy Elects New President After National Search, Jo Ivey Boufford, MD

NEW YORK CITY, October 16 Jo Ivey Boufford, MD, a national authority on healthcare and public health policy, has been elected President of The New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Boufford, a Professor of Health Policy and "Management and former Dean at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, was President of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation under Mayor Koch and served under President Clinton as-Principal Deputy and - Acting Assistant Secretary for Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Boufford will take office on February 1, 2007. David Vlahov, PhD, Director of the Academy Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies, is serving as Interim Executive Director until that time. We are also especially proud of the Montefiore Connection: Dr. Boufford was one of the first graduates of our Social Pediatric Residency Program (1974), and was Director of the RPSM at Montefiore from 1975-1982.

Dr. Boufford expects to set the specifics of her agenda by early summer after completing a strategic review of the Academy's current activities and consulting with the Board, staff, the Academy's elected Fellows, and critical partners in New York City. She is strongly committed to building upon the Academy's current strengths as a world class center for urban health research domestically and internationally, and to further expanding its active engagement with the community and important organizational partners on health and healthcare challenges facing New York City especially underserved populations.

The New York Academy of Medicine
Press Release

The Academy Elects New President After National Search, Jo Ivey Boufford, MD

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**Association of American Medical Colleges**  
**Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, October 27 – November 1, 2006**


Anderson MR, Smith CL, Yu M. Using the Internet to Promote Social Medicine.

Fornari A, Anderson MR. Building Capacity to Serve Communities: the Social Medicine Orientation Month Experience.

Gorski V, Strelnick H, Korin E, Townsend J, Ozuah P, Swiderski D. Montefiore’s Residency Program in Social Medicine: A Brief History of Thirty-Five Years of Interdisciplinary Training in Primary Care and Social Medicine.

Meacher P. Teaching Social Medicine – Teaching Residents the Strengths of Social Medicine through a Community Health Center (CHC)-based HIV Elective.

Ojalvo L, Yu M. Student-Organized Course in Social Medicine.

Tsoni Peled J, Lee J, Cortijo A. Student-Run Free Clinics: Challenges and Opportunities.

**Scheduled Highlights**

**Village Health Works Benefit**
Join us November 8, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, 88 Crosby St, SoHo, NYC for a fundraiser to help build and operate a health center in the village of Kigutu, Burundi, East Africa. Special guests, Dr. Paul Farmer, Founder of Partners in Health, Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize winner and best selling author of the *Soul of a New Machine* and *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, and Deogratias Niyizonkiza, Founder of the Village Health Works. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Barbara Lowenstein at (212) 772-2007 or via e-mail at Barbara@bookhaven.com.

**5th International Palliative Care in the 21st Century Conference**
The Professional Education Center of The Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System will be hosting its Fifth International Palliative Care in the 21st Century conference on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at Columbia University. They are also hosting a Social Work Clinical Best Practices in Long-Term Care conference to be held later this year on December 7, also at The Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System, Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Westchester Division. For more information please visit www.lifecareinstitute.org/public. If you have any questions, please contact Naim Gribaa at (212) 870-4762 or e-mail at ngribaa@jhha.org.

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Teleconference

CDC Satellite Teleconference at Westchester Medical Center focusing on Mobilizing Against The HIV/AIDS Crisis Among African Americans. This event will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2006, 1:00-3:00pm at the School of Public Health, Westchester Medical Center Campus in Valhalla, NY. To register: Please e-mail your name and agency to cei@wcme.com. (Space is limited). Also available by Internet Web Cast (Live and Later) as well as on DVD and Video CD-ROM (go to www.cdcnpin.org for more information on these formats).

The goals of this forum are to: (1) Raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS in African American communities and (2) Encourage organizations to mobilize together against the crisis of HIV/AIDS among African Americans. Research and programs across the country will be highlighted, and a panel of experts will address questions from viewers.

At the completion of this broadcast, participants should be able to describe the impact of HIV/AIDS on African American communities, summarize CDC activities and collaboration with other organizations including non-traditional partners, demonstrate effective strategies and collaborative opportunities for organizations to reduce HIV transmission and raise awareness about the importance of knowing one's HIV status, and Identify resources and technical assistance available to all organizations.

Career Day

(Mentoring) Career Day: Monday, November 20, 2006 with keynote speaker Dr. Allen Spiegel, Dean, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, speaking on Bedside to Bench: Collaboration Between Basic Science & Clinical Faculty.

Note to All Faculty: please be sure that you are listed on the All Faculty mailing list for AECOM to be sure you are receiving notices on all upcoming events. Skill-based workshops are now being planned for 2006-2007.

Faculty Networking Breakfast

Coming in December 2006, more to follow…

Opportunities

Writing Opportunity

We want your submissions! With the support of colleagues around the country and the Family Medicine Education Consortium, we at the Department of Family Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine are undertaking an ambitious project: to launch a magazine that will use our stories--and those from the entire medical community, including patients--to start a national conversation about health care. “Pulse--voices from the heart of medicine” will be unlike any other publication you’ve ever seen. It will take a candid look at the emotional and practical realities of giving and receiving medical care: it will also paint a picture of how our health system affects that care.

Dr. Paul Gross says, “In fifteen years of practicing and teaching family medicine, I’ve found that personal stories have the power to entertain, to heal and to build community. My colleagues and I at “Pulse” further believe that these accounts, if given a national forum, will resonate with readers and create momentum for change.”

We look forward to hearing from you--and to sharing your accounts in the pages of “Pulse.” We hope to have our first issue in print and online by the end of 2006. For more information please contact Paul Gross, M.D. at (718) 430-2602, via e-mail at pgross@pol.net, or by mail at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1300 Morris Park Avenue, Mazer 100, Bronx, NY 10461